WENDELL POST

504 (cheap)

July/August 1996

Renowned artist & architect Thurston Munson with the partially completed new stage curtain

Photo by Linda Hickman

Vol. 20 #2

New Stage Curtain near Completion

Things do not always come out the way you thought they would. Sometimes things work our even better. The new stage curtain mural being painted by the renowned Thurston "T" Munson is an excellent case in point.

Thurston and his brother Claude were artists struggling to make it through the Depression. They ended up painting murals on town hall stage curtains and selling advertisements for local businesses which were painted around the murals.

Wendell has one of the few surviving stage curtain murals painted by the Munsons, but it was in poor condition. Kathy Becker tracked down the identities of the unsigned mural painters. She contacted the surviving brother, Thurston, the ninety-year-old who agreed to repaint the mural.

After tears in the original curtain were expertly mended by Ria McCrae Windcaller and the painting was stabilized, it was decided by the Wendell Historical Society to preserve the original curtain as a historical artifact. Thurston agreed to a proposal to paint a mural for a brand new stage curtain with a scene of Wendell Center.

Wendell Historical Society member Jerry Eide facilitated the project. He quickly found many local businesses eager to sponsor the new curtain, as happened in the 1930's.

Wendell is very fortunate to soon be the possessor of two Thurston Munson murals. Munson, of Greenfield, has become a famous artist, architect, designer, teacher, and writer. Through the efforts of enterprising individuals, both curtains have been obtained at no cost to the town for all to enjoy.

Linda Hickman

WENDELL OLD HOME DAY

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1996

10 am- Parade led by Smoky the Bear
10 to 1- Farmer's Market
1 to 1:30- Jan Morris ♩
1:40 to 2:25- Justina & Joyce ♩ ♩
2:35 to 3:20- Patty Carpenter ♩
3:30 to 4:30- Space Dog (Outer Space & Wailin 'Dave) ☆☼☆☾☆
4:40 to 5:10- Where's Jeff? ♩♩
5 pm- Diemand Famous Chicken BBQ
5:20 to 6:00- Gypsy Wranglers ♩♩♩
6:10-7:00- Kevin Sysyn Band ♩♩♩♩

Other Activities:
Children's Games
Aikido Demonstration
Golden Agers Raffle
Tag Sales/ Crafts/ Food

TIMES MAY VARY
CHECK SCHEDULE NEXT TO STAGE

WASHOUT!!

Old Stage Road and the middle section of Jennison Road were completely washed out (down to bedrock) during the rainstorm on the night of June 13th. We were stranded. The Wendell Highway Department worked day and night to restore the damaged roads in our vicinity. After skillful work, and more than five loads of gravel, our road was remade, and was in better shape than ever within three days of the storm.

Hats off to our hard-working highway crew!!

Molly Kaynor

Wendell's Lamplighter

"He made the night/a little brighter/where ever he would go/the old lamplighter/of long, long ago. His snowy hair/was so much whiter/beneath the candle glow/the old lamplighter/of long, long ago."

During a recent conversation with Walter Rolf of Baldwinville, I learned that "Wendelltown" (as he refers to this community) was the last municipality in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be electrified. Mr. Rolf knew this particular piece of trivia because he enjoyed the role of *lamplighter* during the late '30s and early '40s. He said that he used to substitute lamplight for David Rathburne on occasion and has fond memories of his forays up the hill to "Wendelltown". He would light the 20-odd lamps that circled the Common so that Wendell-ites could travel about in safety.

Walter Rolf worked at the time as an auto mechanic for Barrett & McKenna Chevrolet in Athol and was a frequent traveler to many of the North Quabbin towns. "I always had at least 2 jobs, though" he stated, "I like to keep busy." He owned and operated a jewelry store in Keene, NH for 7 years, then spent the last "28 years and 2 months" of his employment in the maintenance department at the Fernald School in Templeton. He finally retired 3 years ago at the age of 75.

Mr. Rolf is a friendly, talkative man with many, many stories to share about the Athol/Orange area and "Wendelltown" during the middle part of this century. In one respect, it seems, technology's gain was Wendell's loss: it would be a pleasure to see Walter Rolf appear on our Town Common in the evening to light our way home.

- Regina Curtis

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WENDELL POST

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POST ARTICLE INSTRUCTIONS

All articles and letters submitted to the Post for publication need to be signed. If you have a computer, you can help by setting them in our style: 3 3/4" wide, 10 point font size, standard font. Indent three spaces for paragraphs, and do not use an extra space between paragraphs. Please be brief, to share our limited space. If you have questions, call a Post staffer.

Articles: The Post welcomes signed, concise articles about topics of interest to Wendell

Letters: The Post accepts brief letters. Remember, passion doesn't need to be mean.

Artwork: Local artwork lovingly accepted. Must be in shiny black ink.

ADS $7.50 business card!

The following is a complaint I sent to Lt. Snow of the Athol State Police Barracks on May 22, 1996. I have not yet received an answer.

Dear Lt. Snow,

I wish to file a complaint with you regarding the behavior of Trooper Thomas Poirier, whose badge number is 1740. Trooper Poirier arrested me on April 29, 1996, on an outstanding warrant.

This warrant was related to an arrest several years ago for a nonviolent anti-war protest. Since then I have had warrants and arrests for refusing to appear in court and, this time, refusing to pay $50 in court costs.

Sometime in mid-April, Trooper Poirier called me at home and asked me to assist him with an investigation. He asked me to come immediately to the barracks. He would not tell me what the investigation was about, so I did not consent to help him.

On April 29, I picked my daughters up from music lessons and softball practice, and drove home. As we approached our driveway , I saw three state police cars in the road. I later learned that they had been there for over an hour in a "stake-out." I parked, handed my wallet to my daughter, and mentally prepared for whatever might happen. Trooper Poirier told me I would have to come with him. I asked if I might make a phone call to insure the safety of my children. I did not want to leave them home alone on a cold night with the woodstove to contend with and no dinner. I explained this to Trooper Poirier. He responded, "That's not my problem." I got out of the car. He went around to the other side and asked my daughter for the wallet. She initially refused, feeling torn between her mom and the trooper. My other daughter took it from her. Trooper Poirier then pinned my second daughter against the car, squeezing her shoulder.with his hand. She said, "Take your hands off me" several times. He pinned her harder, and started a tirade about sending her to a foster home. My daughter has never been manhandled in this way before. (She is 13 years old, 4 feet 9 inches tall, and 85 pounds). Of course he was able to get my wallet from her. However, her actions apparently made him angry, because as he handcuffed me, he jammed the cuffs closed with a grimace, cutting off my circulation. I yelled and fell forward; he lifted me by my wrists from behind. As we drove away, leaving my children in the driveway in the pouring rain, Trooper Poirier started sharing some of his views with me. The following is a sampling:

> You frigging people make me sick. You set a fine example for your children. People like you shouldn't be allowed to have children. DSS ought to take them all. As a matter of fact, I'm going to initiate a DSS investigation. You are really sick. You watch too much TV.

And on and on, all the way to the Athol barracks, and all during the booking procedure. At one point, the trooper who seemed to be in charge, whom I believe to be Sgt. Stolgitis, called Trooper Poirier into the next room and told him to calm down, after which Trooper Poirier was less noisy in expressing his feelings.

After a short wait in the cell in the Athol barracks, I was put into the patrol car again. From my vantage in the back seat, I had a clear view of the speedometer, and I observed the needle climbing to 95 twice on our trip down Route 2 to Greenfield. Our average speed was probably 85 miles per hour on this very rainy, windy night. Trooper Poirier ran a red light with his lights flashing. Another state police car passed us as we hit 95 mph. This car was transporting my neighbor, who had been arrested on a similar charge.

I feel that Trooper Poirier behaved in an unprofessional manner. The "cowboy" mentality, the stake out, the hauling in of the big criminals, was silly and a waste of taxpayers' money. His verbal abuse to me and his threats against my daughters were unnecessary, unprofessional, and unacceptable. His refusal to let me make a call to be sure my children would be cared for was inhuman. His excess speed in driving to Greenfield was childish and dangerous. His perverse delight in tightening my handcuffs is causing me now, weeks later, to be experiencing numbness in my left hand. Trooper Poirier had no reason to act in such a hostile and threatening way. I was not armed. I am a long time believer in nonviolence. Trooper Poirier was in no way in danger.

The next day, after a night in the jail in Greenfield, I was taken to court and the matter was continued without a finding. When I was released, I went immediately to the Athol barracks to find out the names of the troopers who arrested me and my friend. Then I went to a doctor to have the contusions on my wrists documented. That night, my daughter woke in frantic tears with a nightmare about the arrest. She was afraid Trooper Poirier was coming after her.

I am distressed to think we live in a society in which this kind of abuse can happen. I had hoped we had higher standards for those we entrust with the enforcement of the law. I feel that people with difficulties controlling their own violent behavior should not be in a position of authority. At the very least I feel that Trooper Poirier should be severely reprimanded for his behavior, and reminded of his responsibilities.

Sincerely,

Zenya Wild

Letter to the Editor:

My name is Norene Coltey, my husband and I are currently looking for a place to rent in the Wendell area. We have one small dog and we were hoping to keep our chickens. If anyone has a house or an apartment for rent or know of anyone who does, please call me at 1-413-659-3114. Please leave a message if no one is available.

Thank you,
Walter & Norene Coltey

Our three-year lease is up; we must find a new home as soon as possible!

We'd like to stay in Wendell, but Leverett or Montague would be fine.

We need a 3+ bedroom house or apt. for our family of 3. We can be reached at 508-544-2828.

Thank you!
Dona O'Dou

SHIATSU
SHUNJI MORIMOTO
(508)544-2375

To the Editor,

Hats off to the Town of Wendell for voting at town meeting to request federal and state legislative delegations to support the creation of a "Blue Ribbon" commission to study the issue of radioactive waste disposal. The article was placed on the warrant by the Selectboard in reaction to a request by Yankee Atomic for support of "interim" off-site storage of high level radioactive waste. The Town voted unanimously to support US Senate Bill #S544 which would establish a Presidential Commission to re-evaluate our atomic waste policies and to make recommendations that would hopefully point the way toward a more sensible means of handling the deadly by-products of our nuclear age. The problem of disposing of a billion pounds of extremely hazardous radioactive waste created by uranium enrichment activities and nuclear weapons remains an unsolved problem. Add the production of more radioactive waste being generated by commercial nuclear reactors and we begin to understand our dilemma.

Consider these facts and ask yourself why?

1. Transport of tons of radioactive waste over highways and rail will endanger thousands of communities in 43 different states, all with the distinct possibility that the waste would have to be moved again.
2. The Energy Department announced it will import 20 tons of highly radioactive waste from 41 countries.
3. Normal operation of nuclear power stations includes routine releases of radioactive materials into the air and water.
4. "Low-level" radioactive waste from nuclear reactors include Plutonium 239 with a hazardous life of 240,000 years far beyond the 100 year control period proposed for "low-level" dumps.

If you can not come up with any answers I suggest you join the thousands of citizens demanding action. It is totally unfair to expect our children to solve the problem that we could not. The concept of using an A-bomb to boil water to generate electricity may be an over-simplification of the technology but that is essentially what we are doing. Remember what "Waffles" the Clown has always said: "You don't need nuclear power to make a good waffle--- all you really need is love."

Josh Dostis
New Salem MA 01355
(508) 544-7210

A REPLY FROM ANOTHER VIEW

Sometime in mid April I received a call from Zenya Wild. This call informed me that a Trooper Poirier had call her and asked her to come to the barracks in Athol to help him with an investagation. She was calling me because she did not know what it was about and was concerned about going there alone. I called Trooper Poirier and asked him about the call he had made to Ms. Wild. He said he did not want to discuss it over the phone. I called Ms. Wild back to tell her his response. She asked me what I suggested she do. I said if it was me I would probably go and see what it was about and deal with it, offering to go with her. She said she did not think she would do that at that point. She called me again a day or two later asking me if I had found out anything more. I had checked with other Wendell Officers and noone knew anything about it. I told her I would be in Athol the next day and would stop and see if I could find out anything more.

The next day, a tuesday, I stopped and a trooper and I figured out what Trooper Poirier had wanted. The trooper I spoke with said that occasionally they will go through the computer and clean up old warrants. Indeed there was a warrant for Ms. Wild. Shortly after I left the barracks I called her home and I left a message with her daughter that it would be a good idea that her mom and I spoke soon. Her daughter became upset and said "They're not going to come and take her away, are they." I told her daughter that there was a warrant out for her mom's arrest and that it was fairly easy to deal with. The way to deal with a warrant is to go to a courthouse and tell them there is a warrant out for your arrest and they will help you take care of it. (I found out that we as police officers are not suppose to inform people of an arrest warrant) If one does not do this than they at some point will be arrested.

The following monday evening I was on my way to a class and I saw two State Police cars, one parked in Ms. Wild's driveway, the other in Ingrid Shockey's driveway. I stopped and asked if there was anything they needed help with. Trooper Poirier said no, that they could handle the situation. I asked if they were serving the warrant and he said yes. We spoke about what Ms. Wild looked like and what kind of vehicle she was driving. He asked me if I was the one that told her about the warrant. We started to discuss this and at this point Ms. Wild drove up. He again said they had it under control and I left to attend my class. I think my blue car was mistaken for a third State Police Cruiser.

Later on that evening I received a call from Chief Chase and from the other person's partner about the arrest.

The reason I felt inclined to write this is because when I as a Wendell Post staff person read Zenya Wild's article I was surprised because it sounded to me as if the State Police just came in and she had no knowledge that she might be arrested. I thought I had informed her that she would indeed be arrested if she did not deal with the warrant.

I in no way am excusing either Zenya Wild or Trooper Poirier. Only they know what went on in the cruiser. What I want to say is that it is a very difficult job being a police officer. We have sworn to uphold the laws that we all have made in the US. People want us to respond when there is a problem but then sometimes I feel as if they wish we would just disappear until they need us again. I really do love the job, sometimes I ask myself why but then something happens and I know why.

Sincerely.
Officer Anne Diemand

6/23/96

Synta's Goodbye
A Thank You Note

Thank you, friends and neighbors, who came to my desparate cries for help as my beautiful Morgan/Arabian mare struggled desparately to free herself from a fallen plow frame that nearly crushed me and she got her legs tangled in it. As she frantically kicked and kicked to get away from this big menace, she broke her leg--severed it completely off. There was no saving her--quality of life.... My screams for Bill brought friends and neighbors flying into my field braving 9000 volts of electric fence. Monica, Tony and Wanita arrived first only to be shocked and horrified by the ghastly sight of my wounded mare.

Shortly thereafter Kate, Shirley and Sarah along with Bill, Betty, their girls and Lola tried to calm me. Some tried to reach a vet to no avail, and others covered my sweet girl with blankets as the shock set in. It was the most incredible and valiant effort of a lost situation I've ever seen.

Thank you for all you did--this incredible community of people--when I faced the facts, which the vet confirmed over the phone, and I realized my girl was lost. The decision was made. Jim Hebert was phoned for his professional assistance. You're a brave man, Mr. Hebert, there is no more suffering for my girl.

Sarah was trying so hard to get a vet and she ended up holding my girl as her last breath was drawn. Bill and Betty, thank you for giving me the space to have the horse of my dreams, thank you Roberta for giving her to me, and Warren Oliver for laying her to rest.

All your valiant efforts to help me, so thoughtful, so kind, my dad would have been proud. My dad, my mentor of horses--taught me to ride at age 7--and I still do at 39--I hope to again.

My dad left me in January of '96. He never met my girl. He loved Arabians. When I was a child growing up, he rode an Arabian stallion of 17 hands who was grey. My solace now is my dad has now met my girl and he rides her, stately and tall as my dad always sat in his Western saddle.

Look deep within your hearts my friends and see my dad riding my girl through the fields of a place much greater than we know. As Orion's star reaches the sky, her namesake, it shall bring her memory to me as she gallops across the starry night.

Goodbye Orion's Syntalong
my sweet girl
I will miss you
I loved you dearly.

Respectfully,
Gail Ainsworth Krutka

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Self-Serve at the Wendell Country Store

The Reds Cafe at the Wendell Country Store has closed as of June 15.

Rather than turning the cafe into retail space, which would have eliminated the community space, owner Patti Scutari has chosen to create a self-serve "what people need to eat a meal and get together."

Patti believes that the change is for the better, because running a full-service restaurant was financially impossible with such a limited customer base. Says Patti, "This is an attempt to preserve the space for the community and provide good food in a sensible way that's economically feasible and low maintenance. We had constant food waste before--it was never a volume restaurant."

The menu includes grinders made fresh each morning, sausage-egg-cheese biscuits, barbecued rib sandwiches, microwave cheeseburgers, chicken cutlet, garden salads and line of fresh deli salads; bagels & cream cheese, Helen's muffins, pies and pastry squares; good coffee and tea. There's a microwave and toaster available to heat things up.

We'll now have a quieter space to visit with friends--no exhaust fan or dishes clattering, no grease from the grill--a pleasant, open space with tables and a small counter with stools facing the front windows.

Patti stated that they are satisfying a "basic need in the community for meeting, coffee klatching, and touching base with friends. So far, we're having a very positive response from the community."

Gloria Kegeles

Wendell Memorial Day Sunday, May 26, 1996

Wendell remembered the sacrifices and duty performed by town veterans in the service of their country.

The annual parade around the common stopped at the memorials to World War One and Two. Members of local veterans organizations presented arms and fired a 21 gun salute to their fallen comrades.

A detachment from Bravo Company, First Battalion of the 104th Infantry Regiment led by local resident Sergeant First Class Robert Marsh, laid wreaths at both memorials in front of the library. SFC Marsh spoke on the eloquence of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Marsh primarily focused on the second paragraph of Lincoln's address.

Selectboard members Ted Lewis and Margo Culley thanked parade organizers and marchers for their participation. The Mahar Middle School Marching Band performed in the parade and also during closing activities. Refreshments were served at the town offices courtesy of Wendell's Golden Agers and the local Positive Action Committee.

Joe Coll

WENDELL POLICE LOG

04/17/96 Motor Vehicle accident. Wendell Depot Rd.
04/17/96 Runaway, Wren Gould Rd.
04/19/96 Attempted rape, Locke's Village Rd.
04/26/96 Check welfare, Locke's Village Rd.
04/27/96 Runaway, Stone Rd.
04/29/96 Stolen card, Farley Rd.
04/30/96 Shots fired, Montague Rd.
05/03/96 Officer wanted.
05/05/96 Check welfare. Morse Village Rd.
05/06/96 Disabled motor vehicle, Wendell Depot Rd.
05/09/96 Accident, Farley Rd.
05/16/96 Unwanted person, Old Stage rd.
05/16/96 Light at Microwave Tower, Locke Hill Rd.
05/17/96 Check welfare, Farley Rd.
05/17/96 Disturbance, Mountain Laurel Rd.
05/18/96 Boat under bridge, Wendell Depot Rd.
05/27/96 Check welfare, New Salem Rd.
06/01/96 Domestic, Mormon Hollow Rd.
06/02/96 Report of moose, Wren Gould Rd.
06/02/96 Check welfare, naked man, Locke's Village Rd.
06/04/96 Accident, West Rd.
06/08/96 Assist fire, Old Stage Rd.
06/08/96 Assist Fire, Jennison Rd.
06/13/96 Trespass, West Rd.
06/13/96 Safety hazard, road has given away. Farley Rd and Mormon Hollow Rd.
06/19/96 Sick looking racoon, New Salem Rd.
06/21/96 Suspicious vehicle, Wickett Pond Rd.
06/23/96 Safety hazard, line hanging low, Locke Hill Rd.
06/24/96 Vandalism, Farley Rd.
06/25/96 Accident, Center Rd.
06/27/96 Alarm, vacant dwelling, Locke's Village Rd.
06/29/96 911 Hangup, Farley Rd.
06/30/96 Missing person, Farley Rd.
07/02/96 Check welfare, Morse Village Rd.
07/03/96 Possible B & E, Wendell Depot Rd.

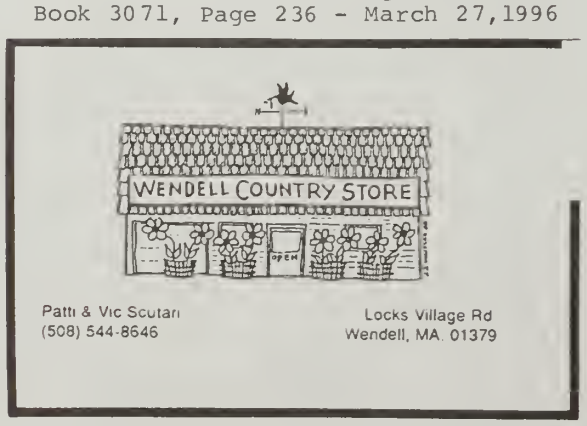
These are the calls that came into Shelburne Control - our dispatch center. The officers may receive calls on thier home phones. Many of these calls are not called into Shelburne Control.

Anne Diemand

LAND TRANSFERS

Cassandra Roxanne Beatman Nawrocki to Mt. Grace Land Conservation Trust, Inc. of North Main St., New Salem, MA - $7000.00 - 13 acres. Book 3084, Page 315 - March 6, 1996

Freeman W. Albertson to Thomas F. Sweeney, Sr. of Wendell - $33,000. - 2.6 acres and dwelling. Book 3071, Page 236 - March 27,1996



The Guide To Riding Bikes

By: Eric Dew
6/18/96

Hi my name is Eric Dew. I am now 10 years old. I am here to give you information about biking.

First of all if you live in the city the best bike to get (these are just suggestions)is a bike with either foot brakes and no gears, or a bike with hand brakes gears and wind back pedals (still no gears).

If you like to go off roading you can get a mountain bike. A mountain bike which has hand brakes, wind back pedals, and gears.

The reason mountain bikes are best on off roading is because they have gears. Gears are good for going up hills because they're easy. High gears are good for going downhill (Once you learn how to ride) because they make you go faster.

If you live in Wendell Ma. like I do, you'll find where good places to ride are.Even if you don't live in Wendell here are some good places to ride if you visit:

The Wendell salt shed is good because there is a jump behind it and a rock pile to ride over.

It is on Locks Village Rd. near Cooleyville Rd. The Country Store is a favorite destination for kids in Wendell. From my house it's a pretty long ride.

On Montague Rd. there are two long and fast hills. No matter which direction you go, it is the same, one uphill and one downhill.

If you are an experienced rider you can go really, really fast down that hill!

One more thing: Watch out for dogs and ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET!

Bye!

Quilt Raffle for Library

Don't miss out on buying a ticket or two for the beautiful queen-size quilt made by Lisa Reynolds of Farley Rd. The quilt's traditional pattern is known as "Trip Around the World" and is in shades of green, mauve and beige in solid colors and flowered prints. The fabric is 100% cotton. The batting is polyester. Tickets are $2 each or 6 for $10 available at the Library or at Old Home Day. Lisa says modestly that this is her first quilt but clearly it is the work of an experienced seamstress and will be highly valued by whoever is the lucky winner. Thanks, LIsa, for such a beautiful donation on behalf of the Library!!

The quilt will be on display at the Library until Old Home Day where it will be displayed and raffled off.

Rosie Heidkamp

DON'T BE LEFT OUT OF THE WENDELL RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Anyone who wants to be listed in the directory should contact Nancy Riebschlaeger at 544-2741 or pick up a blank form at the pick up/drop off box at the Wendell Country Store.

WHEN THE RIPE FRUIT FALLS

When the ripe fruit falls
its sweetness distils and trickles
away into the veins of the earth.

When fulfilled people die
the essential oil of their experience enters
the veins of living space, and adds a glisten
to the atom, to the body of immortal chaos.

For space is alive
and it stirs like a swan
whose feathers glisten
silky with oil of distilled experience.

- D. H. Lawrence (1929)

Jessie,
You took all that was given to you in this life with the utmost dignity.

NO self-pity...

NO bitterness...

Always a smile for all...

Every time I walk into the town office I miss your face in that corner office.

You are missed but never forgotten.

Love,
Judy

Several times a week, I still catch myself thinking "Jessie would know that." Jessie knew Wendell as few others do, and sadly, she took most of that knowledge with her. She also knew the intricacies of her job as Assessor inside and out. It will literally take three or four people to do the job she has done for the town so faithfully. While we sadly miss her knowledge and expertise, we will miss her spirit more. Jessie was a powerful link between "old" and "new" Wendellites. Her openness and fairness made her respected by all and loved by many. Jessie knew us "where we lived" and did not judge. She defined the words "public servant" as she struggled up the hill to be at her desk as long as there was a breath in her body. Damn the weed that made her last years so difficult. We miss you, Jessie.

Margo Culley

JESSIE WETHERBY

It was my privilege to get to know Jessie a few years ago while I trapped her many cats to get them spayed/neutered. We spent quite alot of time together which I thoroughly enjoyed, as Jessie was alot of fun and had a good sense of humor and lots of Wendell stories.

Jessie was a warm and caring person who was devoted to her family, who loved a good mystery, and who generously gave her time, energy and skills to her Wendell.

Everyone I know who knew Jessie liked her and cared alot about her. She will be missed greatly by many people and by her cats.

Mary McBride

The Recorder,

Deaths

Jessie E. Wetherby, active in Wendell

WENDELL — Jessie E. (Briggs) Wetherby, 82, of 46 Morse Village Road died Saturday (6-8-96) at Poet's Seat Nursing Home in Greenfield.

She was born in North Orange, Aug. 1, 1913, the daughter of Will N. and Mary (Chamberlain) Briggs. She graduated in 1931 from Athol High School and later from Danvers Hospital School of Nursing. She lived in Athol before moving to Wendell in 1950.

Wetherby was a licensed practical nurse. She worked in the office of Dr. Carlton F. Bassown in Athol for several years. During World War II she was employed at the L.S. Starrett Co. A rural mail carrier for 18 years in Wendell, she was later a site coordinator for the Green Thumb Project.

She was a member of St. Mary's Church in Orange.

She was chairman of the Wendell Board of Assessors and served on its board for many years. She was clerk for the Wendell Board of Health.

A member of the Wendell Council on Aging, a ballot clerk, she had also been a police matron.

She was a crossword and jigsaw puzzle enthusiast as well as a flower and vegetable gardener.

Her husband, Francis E. Wetherby, died in 1972.

Survivors include a son, Tom of Wendell; two brothers, Howard Briggs and Will N. Briggs, both of Athol; two sisters, Jan Briggs of Greenfield and Barbara Winchester of Athol; two granddaughters and several nephews and nieces.

Services, in Orange, will be Wednesday from Witty's Funeral Home, 158 South Main St., followed by a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. in St. Mary's Church, 19 Congress St. Burial will follow in Highland Cemetery in Athol.

Calling hours at the funeral home are Tuesday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, contributions are suggested to the American Heart Association, 1111 Elm St., West Springfield 01089, or the American Lung Association, 393 Maple St. Springfield 01105.

Those of us who were privileged to know Jessie Wetherby understand why she was so loved by so many. When her church needed help in its efforts to aid those whom the world seemed to have forgotten she was in the forefront. Her concern and care for unfortunate cats who had no home was well known. Her abilities and talents were many, whether some painting was needed in the old office at the Town Hall or someone at night needed to be taken to the emergency room at the hospital. Her talents ranged from those of a registered nurse to those of a member of the police force and with the mathematical and business knowledge required to be chairman of the assessors. Her days were FULL of important tasks and yet she always had time to help others. She was a towering force for good in all its forms. She was an avid reader as one would expect of a descendant of the great poet, Robert Burns. Her kindness and understanding, her courage, her love for faltering humanity——Jessie, you will always live on in our hearts.

Marion Herrick

Jessie Wetherby was so many things to so many people. For me she was a welcoming friend, a devoted town official, and someone to look up to—— someone to be revered.

I first got to know Jessie when Fran and I were in the planning stages of making our home and our life in Wendell. Very early on we realized that Jessie was a tremendous resource of information—— if only you asked. She never pushed anything on you but if you asked she was a well-spring of ideas. Conversation with Jessie was always interesting and never superficial.

Jessie was also a great resource of information for the town of Wendell. She had so much history in her head and could retrieve it clearly and accurately. I occasionally volunteered to help in the assessor's office. Jessie was the primary attraction for me. I wanted to help her because I knew she could use the help, but selfishly I wanted to simply spend time with Jessie. Also I knew I could learn a lot from her. Whenever I would stumble upon something in the assessor's office that made no sense—— for instance, a deed that didn't quite match up with the information we had on the computer——Jessie would invariably recall the entire history of the parcel: when the owner remarried, the new husband's cousin, who paid the taxes, and he built a house on a piece of the original parcel... Sometimes these details were half a century or more old!

I loved Jessie's honesty and forthrightness. We didn't always agree politically or philosophically, but nonetheless we could rationally discuss our differences without righteousness, insult, or apology. There was a fairness about Jessie that was well complemented by her keen intelligence. She could disapprove of a person's actions without disapproving of the person. Jessie believed in hard work and in service to others, consequently her life was rich with experience. I am grateful to have shared a slim slice of this experience. I feel honored to have known Jessie Wetherby.

Laura Doughty

Enchanted Forest Summer Camp

GREETINGS from the Enchanted Forest Summer Arts and Recreation Camp, 1996! We have a wide range of new and exciting projects just waiting to be explored! Our daily schedule will be the same as last year (9 am. to noon Arts & Crafts, and noon to 3 pm. Swimming and New Games). The morning session will be at Swift River School and we bus the campers to Ruggles Pond where you pick up your children at 3 pm. Directions are available at the school in the a.m.

We still have space available, so please call to make arrangements or pick up a flyer at Swift River School.

For more info call:
Gail Ainsworth/Krutka
(508) 544-6362 (Home)
(508) 544-0976 (Enchanted Forest)
Looking forward to seeing you there!
Happy Summer!
Gail, Rosemary,
Mez and Kerry

THE ENCHANTED FOREST
ARTS AND RECREATION CAMP
SUMMER 1996

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Week 3: July 16, 17, 18
Wax and Batik Week
beeswax sculpting, batik hanging, decorated candles and sand candles.

Week 4: July 23, 24, 25
Paper Party!!
paper making, marbleizing, 2-D paper mache animals and more!

Week 5: July 30, 31, Aug. 1
All the Colors of the Rainbow
tye-dye, murals, molas, silk screening, embroidery, sand paintings & scratch board.

Week 6: Aug. 6, 7, 8
Multi-cultural Week
calabash bowls, rain sticks or drums, beaded lakota charm bags, worry dolls, dances from around the world and so much more!

Week 7: Aug. 13, 14, 15
Circus of the Stars - Variety Show
a week of theater, performance & dance.

Clowning around with Carrots the Clown
Diversity of Dance and parcel of performances!!!

The folks at the Enchanted Forest believe in the creative spirit in all children, the importance of community and the celebration of our Mother Earth.

This is a School Sponsored Event.

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SWIFT RIVER SCHOOL
School Committee News

The outcome of the town meeting processes in New Salem and Wendell leaves us quite confident that we well have a nearly level services budget for Swift River School for the 1996-7 school year. However, none of the proposed and much needed new staff positions will be possible this year.

The Wendell Finance Committee recommended a 5% increase in the town's appropriation to the school, which the Wendell School Committee felt was reasonable and fair given the town's tight budget. At the town meeting, we accepted the Finance Committee's recommendation, but asked for additional money for the fuel tank project in a special article, which passed unanimously. We are very appreciative of Wendell's solid support of Swift River School this year, and pleased that the communication between the two committees has been characterized by thoughtful listening and open-mindedness on both sides, resulting in a useful and productive exchange of ideas and information.

At the New Salem town meeting a proportionately much lower amount was voted for Swift River School. The outlook for the school was consequently quite grim at that point in time. Fortunately, in the subsequent override vote in New Salem, the town passed an article which allocated additional money to match Wendell's appropriation. New Salem also passed an article which allocates money for the fuel tank project in proportion to the amount voted by Wendell.

We have spent considerable time at recent School Committee meetings discussing Swift River's bus contract. Numerous concerns about bus mainenance and safety have been raised by parents and investigated by the **Bus Saftey Committee which was formed this year at the school. After considerable discussion and some disagreement, the school committees for both towns voted to continue with the same bus company for a 5-year contract (Chartered Bus, which submitted a substantially lower bid than the two other companies which bid). However, we plan to be very vigilant in our efforts to monitor the company's maintenance of the buses and adherence to safety regulations.**

In other news, following town elections, the joint New Salem-Wendell School Committee welcomes two new members: John Gray from New Salem and Faith Pederzini from Wendell.

School Improvement Plan

There were many sub-committees and groups formed this past year at the Swift River School to make decisions pertaining to the School Council's School Improvement Plan. These groups were made up of teachers and parents who have volunteered their time to discuss how to make improvements to our school which will make it the best we can.

Leonard Strauss, the principal, who was an active member of all of the fourteen groups, was impressed with the time and attention that was given by the committee members. He noted the high quality of the discussion that occurred at the meetings. He said that members came with strong feelings one way or another, but heard each other with an openness that allows good work to emerge from such thoughtful dialogue. He is pleased that many committees are planning to continue their valuable work into the following year in order to reach the best possible decisions on some complex issues.

Molly Kaynor

Parenting Workshop

This spring, Joanna Fisher and Kathleen Hardie, from the "Valuing Our Children" program in Athol, spent an evening at the Swift River School discussing ways parents can help their children learn to manage their own behavior. We found that, although each child is different, parents' complaints and frustrations were similar. It was comforting to find that our childrens' difficult behavior that was "driving us crazy" was normal-for the most part, a necessary part of various developmental stages that did not have to be out of control.

During the workshop, we recognized children's basic needs such as self esteem, nurturing touch, guidelines and limits. As with adults, kids need to feel valued before they can act in positive ways. Special attention was given to their need for praise, with a distinction made between praise for <u>being</u> who they are and praise for <u>doing</u> something well. We saw that both types of praise are extremely important, but that if the two kinds of praise are used together, the effect of both are cancelled out because the child gets mixed messages ("You cleaned your room well - I love you").

Nurturing touch is crucial. It was pointed out that a child born with disabilities and handicaps can live a full and satisfying life, but a child who is not touched will die.

Concerning guidelines and limits, it was recommended that family rules (no more than five) be created by the whole family with every family member abiding by them. (It was noted that our kids learn more from our example than from our words.)

Once we were able to see things from our children's point of view, we realized how difficult it is to hide negative feelings and "be good" if our self esteem is low, we don't feel heard, and we have to find hiding places for our feelings. We were reminded that negative behavior always has explanations if we can remember to "be curious, not furious". With that approach, we can better help our children to separate their feelings (which are natural) from their actions (which can be controlled.) But this requires that we listen to them and show respect for their feelings before we can help them move on to controlling their actions.

From this parenting workshop, it was clear that when our children's emotional needs are met, everyone benefits. We came away with some simple ways to make our lives easier and our children more cooperative just by giving more words of praise, a few extra hugs, some consistent guidelines and remembering to listen and be curious - not furious.

Molly Kaynor

HELLO!!

My name is Christine Heard, and I am the new secretary at Swift River School. Four of my children graduated from Swift River; I worked in 5th and 6th grade as a teacher aide; I have been on the Swift River School Committee and the Wendell School Committee for more than ten years. Before coming back to Swift River, I was a secretary at UMass. It feels good to be home!

A Report from The Ad Hoc Committee to Restructure High School Education Ralph C. Mahar Regional School

This committee met for the first time on March 16, 1995 with the charge of developing a restructuring plan for the high school to be implemented by 1997-98. The committee is co-chaired by school committee members Linda James and Charlotte Ryan. It has numbered as many as 28 members, including school committee members, school council members, parents, students, faculty, administration, and community members. We have met over 20 times in a period of 14 months.

In the early stages of the process, we researched through articles, books, and taped interviews of leading educators in the reform movement as much information as possible about the different philosophies of ed reform. At our third meeting, we created three sub-committees: a steering committee, a curriculum committee to examine the curriculum frameworks with each department, and a scheduling committee to examine long block scheduling.

We continued this exploration through the end of 1995, filing reports and discussing our findings. In January of 1996, we realized the need for input from outside of our committee. We organized two meetings with the student body and four meetings with the community to gather information about their concerns with Mahar. During this time, a faculty restructuring committee had also been meeting regularly and submitted a report about their needs and concerns. By the middle of April, we had enough information to begin formulating a broad restructuring plan for the high school.

In May, we began to examine the issues that we thought were a priority. By this time, we all agreed that long block scheduling in some form should be recommended. In addition, we were unanimous in our support for more time and resources for professional development and adequate staffing. Included in the goals of restructuring should be to:

1. Improve school climate.
2. Develop an interdisciplinary approach.
3. Address the needs of ALL students.
4. Review assessment methods.
5. Implement equal development of all seven curriculum frameworks.
6. Stress more hands-on learning.
7. Develop higher order thinking skills.
8. Increase use of technology.
9. Have higher expectations of students.
10. Incorporate more arts programs into the curriculum (drama, dance)

At the same time, we began to look seriously at the Coalition of Essential Schools. We invited David Perrigo, Coordinator of Essential Schools with the Department of Education to come speak with us and answer our questions. We discovered that many of our goals matched the Coalition's Common Principles. It was decided that we would recommend that Mahar become an Exploring School with the Coalition of Essential Schools. To be an Exploring School, we need to apply for a $7500 grant to explore this restructuring process for two years. After two years, we can decide to become a member school of the Coalition or not.

The following motion was made at the June 4th School Committee meeting:

"That the administration go forward with a High School Restructuring Plan to be implemented in the 1997-98 school year. This plan would include the following priorities:

1. Design and implement a Long Block schedule which allows for club/activity time.
2. Support for professional development.
3. Adequate staffing to support long block scheduling.
4. Application for a $7500 grant from the Coalition of Essential Schools to be come an Exploring School for two years."

The work of the Restructuring Committee is now finished. The School Committee, Faculty and Administration now have the task of implementing these changes. The planning process will take place over the 1996-97 school year. Parents are invited to participate by attending sub-committee meetings. Dates and times of meetings can be obtained from the Superintendent's office. If you have any questions about this report or the Coalition of Essential Schools, please call me. I would be glad to answer questions.

Linda James
Mahar School Committee
544-7559

Northfield Mount Hermon School Honors Students

The following Wendell residents have earned academic honors for the spring term at Northfield Mount Hermon School:

Clara Keller
Shoshanna Gross
Caleb Keller

Class of 1996 Scholarship Recipients:

DONALD CLARK
Mahar Teachers Association Scholarship-$100
AUBIN MAYNARD
Mahar Teachers Association Scholarship in Memory of Robert Lauber-$300
Mahar Key Club Timothy Donelan Memorial Scholarship-$100
REBECCA SNYDER
Athol-Orange Exchange Club "Student of the Month"-$50
Orange Kiwanis Club-$500
Franklin County Retired Teacher's Association-$500
Pioneer Junior Women's Club Scholarship-$100
Mahar Teachers Association Scholarship in Memory of Robert Lauber-$300
Athol-Orange Rotary Club Scholarship-$500
Mahar National Honor Society Scholarship(in memory of Harold Torstensen)-$100

RALPH C. MAHER REGIONAL SCHOOL
A-B HONOR ROLL
*INDICATES ALL A'S
GRADE 7
* Michelle Roy
GRADE 8
Stephanie A. Clark
*Anne E. Daniel-Stamell
*Adam G. Feltman
*Kelsey K. Fl;ynn
*Mara J. Gross
Seth Lawrence-Slavas
Erin J. Sears
Leah D. Tanner
SECOND HONOR ROLL
GRADE 7
Ian Roy
Liam Walsh
A-B HONOR ROLL
*INDICATES ALL A'S
GRADE 9
*Caralee U. Manley
Jay A, Snyder
GRADE 10
*Crystal Descavich
*Kyle Gilman
Sarah Beth Woodward
GRADE 11
Gabriel G. Drohen
Daniel N. Putnam
GRADE 12
Donald H Clark Jr.
Noah Lawrence-Slavas
*Rebecca Leigh Snyder

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SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Wendell Selectboard Meeting April 9,1996 Minutes Members present were Margo Culley and Ted Lewis. Also present were Joe Coll, Athol Daily News and Wanita Sears. Correspondence was reviewed and minutes signed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

All public events approved by the Town on the Common are covered under the Town's insurance.

Board reviewed license agreement received from NYNEX for communications cabinets.

Newsletter received from Shelburne Dispatch.

Anne Zak will attend the Route 2 Task Force Meeting on April,17 1996.

Received Special Article Request for $12,872.25 from Swift River School for fuel tank replacement.

Letter received from Citizen's Awareness Network on radioactive waste issues. Stanley Gawle will soon attend to speak about this.

Notice received from NYNEX on two upcoming Pole Hearings.

Swift River Ad Hoc Meetings resulted in borrowing for capital projects being based on October 1 enrollment. Distribution reimbursements will be based on total cost of project to each individual town.

Josh Dostis attended the meeting requesting to serve waffles from the bandstand on the Common the first Sunday of each month for donations. Board asked him to contact Board of Health and wait for a decision next week with all Board members present.

Bill of $1000.00 received for Ad Hoc legal fees.

Proposal received from Mark Stewart for Town Hall work.

Margo Culley remarked that Town should look into STRAP funding for Town Common work as South Hadley received funding for this.

Massachusetts Municipal Association Action flyer received stating PILOT monies have been cut in half.
Meeting adjourned at 8:00.

Wendell Selectboard Meeting April 16,1996 Minutes Members present were Anne Zak, Margo Culley, and Ted Lewis. also present were Holly Brooks, Greenfield Recorder, Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator, and Wanita Sears.
Warrant was signed and correspondence reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Ted Lewis spoke of the Roadside Cleanup on Saturday April 20. Volunteers are to meet at the Town Offices at 8:30. Refreshments will be at 12:00.

Board will ask county towns of any bylaws they may have concerning scenic roads and shade trees before Annual Town Meeting.

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Town Election will be held May 5,1996 at the Senior Center.

Anne Zak has spoken with Josh Dostis suggesting his waffle breakfast be held with the Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings.

All Board Meeting is April 30,1996 at 7:00.

George Boyle from NYNEX received signed license agreement from the Board for communication cabinet installation in the north corner of the wall at the Town Garage and Fire Station. Mr. Boyle presented check for $5000.00 consideration to the Board.

Letter received from Paul Rich for portable sawmill operation of Mike Wing. Board to send letter notifying there must be a Special Permit issued by the Building Inspector as ZBA administrator.

Bid received from Charles Bado for Town Hall roof work.

Margo Culley will attend MMA update Meeting on April 17,1996.

Jessie Wetherby's Retirement Party from her Green Thumb assessors position will be held on April 17,1996 from 4-6 at the Town Offices.

Pole Hearings have been set for May 7, 1996.

Letter received from Athol Hospital requesting a Wendell representative for their new community based facility.

Quote received from MIIA for municipal insurance. They will attend next weeks meeting at 8:00 to discuss.

Anne Zak will attend the Route 2 Task Force Meeting on April 17.

Fin Com will attend the April 23rd meeting to discuss the budget.

Ms. Zak signed Septic Grant Agreement and MEMA Disaster Relief Contract.

Stanley Gawle from Citizen's Awareness will attend the April 23, 1996 meeting at 7:15 to discuss transporting of Rowe's radioactive waste.
Meeting adjourned at 9:30.

Wendell Selectboard Meeting April 23,1996 Minutes Members present were Anne Zak, Margo Culley, and Ted Lewis. Also present were Joe Coll, Athol Daily News, Holly Brooks, Greenfield Recorder and Wanita Sears. Correspondence was reviewed and minutes signed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Margo Culley will attend the rescheduled MMA meeting on April 24,1996.

Board signed Election Warrant.

Board signed request for Full Moon Coffee House use for next year.

The Board will allow the Farmer's Market to put up a banner on Saturdays at the bandstand.

Parker Cleveland requested extra time to remove unregistered vehicles from his property due to muddy conditions. Board extended the date to June 1,1996.

New Board of Health regulations reviewed for wells, perc tests, septic and leach fields.

Josh Dostis has spoken to the Board of Health about waffle breakfasts the first Saturday of each month. He will have access to Town Office water. He will speak to Linda Hickman about doing this with the Farmer's Market.

Larry Joseph from MIIA municipal insurance discussed coverage on the 3 year policy he has drawn up.

Stanley Gawle for Citizens Awareness Network asked the Board's support for High Level Nuclear Waste Bill 533 to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. This will be brought up at the Annual Town Meeting. He discussed decommisioning process of spent fuel rods.

Letter received from Cheri Martinez asking for rentable space as her sewing studio has to be moved from the Meetinghouse. Board agreed there is no available alternative.

Board received invitation to Franklin County Technical School Community Development Day on May 11,1996 from 9-2:30.

The Board received notice from County on State's proposal to eliminate county government.

Low Level Radioactive Waste Meeting will be held on April 24,1996.

Board discussed budget with Finance Committee.
Meeting adjourned at 9:30.

Wendell Selectboard Meeting, April 30, 1996 Minutes members present were Anne Zak, Margo Culley, And Ted Lewis. Also present were Joe Coll, Athol Daily News,Holly Brooks, Greenfield Recorder, Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator and Wanita Sears.Warrant and minutes were signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Anne Zak reviewed work needed at Town Hall, bids received, and priority of repairs. Volunteers from Lake Grove School, Town officials, and Full Moon Coffeehouse committee have cleaned off the stage for curtain repair.

A Town Common Advisory Committee of five people will be formed at the Annual Town Meeting.

Fin Com determined that the Fire Department phone bill from Shelburne Dispatch will be paid from the Fire Department budget as Fin Com cannot grant a reserve request.

Board agreed that Sid Mann's removal of stone slabs does not require a special permit.

Regina Curtis will post a request in the MMA newsletter to any local towns that may have bylaws on Shade Trees and Scenic Roads.

Anne Zak signed MRF Education contract.

Swift River School Committee Meeting is May 2, 1996 at 7:30.

The Board appointed Regina Curtis, Ted Lewis, and Danny Baciagalupo, as Surplus Property Representatives.

All Board Meeting convened.

Dorothy Cleveland from the ZBA presented drafts of requirements for ZBA variances and use regulations. She spoke of a hearing on May 20,1996 at 7:00 for a group of low income housing units.

Board will charge a filing fee to cover costs of notifying abutters.

Regina Curtis and Ted Lewis commented on current infrastructure projects, Morse Village Road will be closed for 1 to 2 months after school is out, dry hydrant work has begun,

Depot Road culvert work, Jennison · Road bridge is on waiting list, and Depot Road bridge is on State list.

Final report received from Mad River Research on Local Partnership Program. The Farmer's Market, Business Association, and Arts were seen as viable resources for future Community Development. Regina Curtis noted the State is placing this in top priority.

Regina Curtis asked for ideas for the three top requests on the Community Action Statement.

Margo Culley commented on trends in State budget and regionalization. Focus at the MMA meeting was on the cost to the State for Education Reform. Franklin County Advisory Board meeting discussion was on abolishing County government. Regionalization was looked at as an alternative to cuts passed down from State and Federal funding.

Ms. Curtis has submitted information to the DPH on recent breast cancer diagnosis with the permission of those affected.

There is $1900 available now for Town Hall repairs.
Meeting adjourned at 9:15

Wendell Selectboard Meeting May 7, 1996 Minutes Members present were Anne Zak , Margo Culley, and Ted Lewis. Also present were Joe Coll, Athol Daily News, Holly Brooks, Greenfield Recorder, and Wanita Sears. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

George Boyle from NYNEX attended Pole Hearings. Board signed Wendell Depot. Rd. and Farley Rd. agrrement.

Wendell Depot Rd. north delayed to May 14,1996 so that Mr. Boyle may speak to Michael Idoine of his concerns of proximity to driveway.

Center Rd. delayed to May 14 for discussion between NYNEX and Cheryl Richardson as the span is planned to go over her father's driveway.

Hugh Campbell and Peter Zschau of PZ Massamont Insurance reviewed coverage and answered questions about their Municipal Insurance Plan.

Josh Dostis attended requesting the Board's support of Senate bill S544 regulating nuclear waste transportation to Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Will be discussed at Annual Town Meeting.

MMA will hold a workshop for new selectmen on June 14,1996.

Congressman John Olver will hold a Public Forum entitled Securing the Future on May 13, 1996 at Greenfield Community College from 6:30 to 9:00.

Residents receiving letters for unregistered vehicles will have until June 1,1996 to remove them due to long mud season.

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Judy Wilder advised the Board that the Historical Society has worked out a long term lease for the Meetinghouse beginning in July. Along with the Historical Commission they will work to restore the Meetinghouse. The Town Hall curtain along with other Town historical items will be on display.

Pam Howland of Rural Development Inc. a self help homebuilding nonprofit affiliate of the Franklin Regional Housing Authority spoke to the Board of their intention to seek a comprehensive permit from the ZBA for five families on Wren Gould Rd. Wren Gould Rd. was discontinued as a Wendell road in 1986 which does not give these parcels frontage. Two lots did have frontage on Jennison Rd. Anne Zak urged Ms. Howland to search for other Wendell sites.

The Town Hall will be closed on May 12-May 19, 1996. Thurmon Munson will return to Wendell to recondition the Town Hall curtain he painted 50 years ago.

Margo Culley commented on budget response from the Swift River School Board Meeting.

Part -Time Computer Clerk position for the Assessors will be advertised.

Anne Zak, As Chairperson of the Selectboard reappointed Wanita Sears as Selectboard Clerk.

Meeting recessed at 10:00 until Saturday May 11, 1996 at 9:00. Annual Town Meeting Warrant discussion will be on items contingent on an override and proposed FY'95 over levy.

Board reappointed Wanita Sears as Selectboard Clerk. Meeting recessed at 10:00 until Saturday May 11, 1996 at 9:00 for discussion of the Annual Town Meeting warrant items contingent on an override.

Wendell Selectboard Meeting May 14,1996 Minutes Members present were Anne Zak, Margo Culley, and Ted Lewis. Also present were Joe Coll, Athol Daily News, Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator, and Wanita Sears. Warrant and minutes were signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Elizabeth Scully attended on behalf of the Council on Aging. Anne Zak signed Formula Grant. Senior Center room work was discussed.

Ms. Zak announced there will be no Selectboard Meeting on May 21,1996 as she and Ted Lewis will be out of town.

George Boyle from NYNEX spoke with Michael Idoine on Pole Hearing concerns. Board signed for Wendell Depot Rd.

Center Rd. Pole Hearing withdrawn. New hearing to be held June 4, 1996 at 6:30.

Hal Stowell told the Board that the State Forest will place a locked gate at the beginning of Sears Road to deter trash dumping. Board discussed the ongoing trash dumping problems with Mr. Stowell.

Eric Egol asked the Board's permission to hold a four band Jazz Festival on the Common Saturday July 6, 1996 for 75 to 200 people. He has arranged for camping and shuttling from Lake Wyola. Board suggested Swallow Rise Farm or other private landowners due to Town liability.

Paul Rich asked the Board to have Michael Wing's dogs removed due to their barking. Board agreed to discuss legal action with Clerk of Courts.

Fin Com discussed Money Management Team, Schools, and GMA Committee for FY '97 with the Board.

The Board asked Mark Stewart to attend the June 4,1996 meeting to discuss unregistered vehicles.

PZ Massamont Insurance has been selected for municipal coverage.

Wendell Annual Town Meeting is May 28, 29, and 30 at 7:30 in the Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45.

Wendell Selectboard Meeting June 4, 1996 Minutes Members present were Anne Zak, Ted Lewis , and Margo Culley. Also present was Holly Brooks, Greenfield Recorder and Wanita Sears. Correspondence was reviewed and minutes were signed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Cheryl and Jeff Richardson attended to discuss that delays on Pole Hearing are due to negotiations with Mass Electric. Board will send letter to Mass Electric supporting Mr. Richardson's plans.

The Board granted Josh Dostis's request to use of the bandstand on July 4th for an Uncle Sam's Birthday Party from 10-2. He will serve waffles Those attending are asked to make donations or bring toppings.

Shirley White discussed arch and light renovations at the Town Hall with the Board.

Town Hall Stage Renovation Public Hearing will be June 11, 1996 at 6:30 in the Town Hall.

Free Box will be moved to the front of the Town Office on June 23rd prior to the Historical Society leasing the Meetinghouse.

Gail Bowes, Town Treasurer requested verification of employee pay raises.

The Board extended Parker' Cleveland"s unregistered vehicle removal until June 15.

Phil Delorey was appointed as Alternate Building Inspector.

Jonathan Von Ranson was appointed as Assistant Moderator.

Edward Marchefka was appointed as Franklin County Wiring Inspector.

Swift River School Committee Meeting will be June 6, 1996 at 7:30.

Lake Grove Community Advisory Board Meeting will be June 13, 1996 at 7:00.

Paul Rich sent letter to Board expressing ongoing dog problems. Clerk of Courts has been unavailable for discussion of this matter.

Franklin County Home Care Annual Senior Picnic is July 18, 1996.

Summer scheduling of Selectboard Meetings discussed for posting.

Board voted to direct the Town Accountant to use 171.77 from Temp Town Office Repairs to install shelving in the Treasurer's office and credit Emergency Snow Removal Funds to Highway Department Expense.

Board members discussed repairs needed while reviewing Safety Audit issued by Worker's Comp carrier.

Anne Diemand reviewed selections of equipment to be bought for the playground with the D.A.R. E. Grant funds.
Meeting adjourned at 9:15

Respectfully submitted,
Wanita Sears
Selectboard Clerk

Old Stage Road washing out.

Notes from the State Forest

The condition of most roads in the State Forest went from fair to no good at all after the deluge. We will be seeing evidence of the '96 deluge for years. Even normal thundershowers will become problems as clogged culverts and ditches cannot even begin to carry water. We have been trying to keep passable Wickett Pond Road--that we can do with our own resources. Other roads will need heavier equipment than we have and a great deal of roadbed material.

Things at Pond Central, however, are continuing on. Some of the beach had to be reclaimed from the water. We hung it up to dry, then laid it back down, raked it out and we are back in operation.

It will be good to mention the fees which went down three years ago and are still low: two dollars per vehicle for a day pass; a season's pass is fifteen dollars, and remember it's good throughout the state. Our pavilion use is increasing--there is a ten dollar rental fee plus a day pass for vehicles. Senior citizens over 62 and handicap are admitted free.

Marcy Marchello is working hard to secure a temporary handicap accessible toilet which will be very welcome. Many readers will remember Marcy for the beautiful nature maps of the towns of Wendell and Warwick. I think that Marcy continues her art work while working in Amherst for D.E.M. equal access.

Let's hope we have a good summer. See you at Ruggles Pond!

Hal Stowell

Muddy kids in Old Stage Road after washout

Garden/Art Studio Tour

Artists of Wendell happily announce the first (perhaps annual) studio and garden tour taking place Sunday, July 21st from 10-2. Wendell abounds in a wide spectrum of artists and a swarm of dedicated gardeners. The tour will include some of Wendell's most loved gardens, both flowers and vegetables, and for the first time, open the doors of a number of art studios in town. Some studios will display the work of several artists. Featured work will range from weavings, water colors, and furniture to prints, sculpted animals, photography and a studio constructed of strawbales.

The tour will take place rain or shine and is free to all. Maps to the studio and garden sites will be available on the Wendell town common and at the Country Store. Questions? Call 508-544-5444 for more information.

Buffalo Trilogy

This past spring, history came alive for our 3rd and 4th graders at the Swift River School through Sally Alley Muffin Stuffin's play, "Buffalo Trilogy". Sally made sure that all 58 actors and actresses had lead parts, and each were coached as performing artists, all worked with a variety of graphic art forms, participated in choral singing, and wrote poetry. Each performer had the responsibility of numerous lines, learned the value of cooperation, the excitement of creating their own characters, designing costumes, making props... and, thanks to Sally's contagious enthusiasm, and their teacher's support, all performers discovered that it can be fun to work hard! The result of all this work over the course of eight weeks, were three smashing performances with a full house each time.

"Buffalo Trilogy" was three plays in one representing the conditions of Native Americans, the Settlers, and wildlife of the Prairie during the Westward Movement along the Oregon Trail in 1845. Sally Alley, a renowned playwright, songwriter, poet and puppeteer, conceived, created and directed this play which offered an in depth study of social issues during a lively time in our history. The play also addressed environmental issues, and illustrated the strength of the human spirit.

This valuable program was made possible because of help from many hard working community and student volunteers, (which includes the tallented musicians!) and was supported in part, by the Wendell and New Salem Cultural Councils, local agencies, the Mass. Cultural Council and National Council for the Arts.

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Here are a few news items:

+ In the past year, we have recruited four new primary care physicians to the community, all now offering office hours in Orange and/or Athol: • **Danilo Funa, MD**, internal medicine, office at Aubuchon Plaza, New Athol Road, Orange, phone 575-0376. He completed his residency at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester, and previously received his medical degree from the University of Santo Tomas, Manila, the Philippines. • **Fadi Baladi, MD**, board-certified in internal medicine; 142 South Main St., Orange, phone 544-7187. Dr. Baladi completed his internal medicine residency at the Medical Center of Central Massachusetts (Memorial) in Worcester, and prior to that obtained post-graduate training at Mercy Hospital, Chicago, and University Hospital of Amiens, France. His medical degree is from Aleppo University, Syria. • **Tony Blofson, MD**, and **Denise Paasche, MD**, husband and wife, associated with North Quabbin Family Physicians, phone 544-7871 or 249-2001. The couple recently relocated to this area after completion of residencies in family practice at Highland Hospital and Rochester General Hospital in Rochester, N.Y. Dr. Blofson did his undergraduate studies at Bowdoin College in Maine and received his medical degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook on Long Island. Dr. Paasche, who is the first ever full-time female primary care physician in the Athol-Orange area, is a graduate of Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn., and received her medical degree from the University of California Medical School in San Francisco.

+ Our newest full-time emergency room physician is **David Doyle, MD**, who formerly worked full-time at Cooley-Dickinson Hospital in Northampton. Dr. Doyle is board-certified in emergency medicine. He went to Keene State College, received his medical degree from Dartmouth and completed his residency at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield.

+ Athol Memorial purchased the former Kontro Building at 450 West River St., Orange. Renovations are underway. Watch for physician office hours and other health care programs. **Do you have ideas for health care services you would like to see in this building? Call or write to give us your ideas. We want this health center to serve you!**

+ Our modern operating room, including one-day surgery program, has recently been enhanced with the purchase of **excellent state-of-the-art endoscopic equipment** (for procedures such as gastroscopy and colonoscopy). Our board-certified surgeons are skilled and compassionate!

+ **Community Health Service**, our hospital's own home health agency, offers skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, social service, Medicare-certified Hospice and home health aides plus education and screening programs. Call 249-5366 for more information.

+ Our public relations department (249-=3511 Ext. 143) will be pleased to send you **free information**, including health and wellness booklets on many topics (for example: blood presssure, mammography, prostate problems); lists of primary care physicians and specialists, and more. Ask for Allen Young.

Now accepting HMO Blue, Tufts and many other health insurance plans.

Thank You, Janice Barrett

Janice Barrett will no longer greet Wendell residents and visitors at the Town Offices as of July 1st. As a result of staff reorganization, the position of General Municipal Assistant, which Janice has held since 1987, has been eliminated From 1988 to1993, Janice also served as our Town Accountant. As GMA, Janice worked with all the financial departments in town and also with the Selectboard and Town Clerk. Among her many duties, she handled the motor vehicle excise tax for the tax collector and worked on the voter list and street list for the Town Clerk. In recent years, she gave special assistance to Jessie Wetherby and the Assessors Office, including going with Jessie to site visits. On her own time, she provided transportation and many other kindnesses to Jessie.

Janice began her work for the Town during the era when most town offices operated out of the private homes of elected and appointed officials. From her small office in the Town Hall, she saw the need for centralized town offices and even drew up plans for the space we now use in the former Center School. Janice describes her job at that time as "a job for a self-starter." And until recently she allocated her time to those departments "who needed something done yesterday." Only recently has her work routine allowed her to devote entire days to one department.

Janice has worked with three different Administrative Assistants and has seen various elected and appointed officials come and go. Of those working for the town she says: "Eveybody is so different; but we blended so well. We all understood that everyone was human. If we could make sure the information we got out to the public was accurate, it didn't matter how many times we corrected each other."

Active as a member of the North New Salem Congregational Church, Janice will continue doing things for other people. Many of her seven children and ten grandchildren are in the area and they keep her busy. She serves as volunteer treasurer for the North New Salem Christian School and works on the Community Meal (serving 80-100 people) provided by Loaves and Fishes at her church every six weeks. In her spare time, she enjoys quilting and sewing.

We all wish Janice well in the future. The Town will always be particularly grateful to Janice for the many ways she made it possible for Jessie Wertherby to continue to serve us with dignity during her last years with us.

Margo Culley

Free Box Moves!

The Free Box, Wendell's finest used clothing boutique, has been moved from the Meeting House to the Town Office building, while renovations are being done to the Meeting House.

Free Box volunteers request that donors limit their deposits to clean, usable clothing only, and bring everything else to the WRATS Free Store (shoes, books, toys, furniture, appliances, etc.). Thanks!

Respectfully,
The Free Box Committee

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Donate a window to the Town Hall or Library

At this year's Annual Town Meeting $3,000 was approved by the body present to purchase and install new windows at the Library. Most of the original windows (circa 1919) no longer open, have extremely ill-fitting storms which are heavy and difficult to put on and off, and have no screens. The replacement plan is for thermopane all around with screens.

About a week after the Annual Town Meeting I was approached by Select-board members with a fundraising challenge. It seems that the windows at the town hall are in a similar state of demise. The Selectboard is planning to replace the very large windows there and are soliciting donors to "sponsor a window". Each window will be affixed with a small "thank-you" or "In Memory Of" plaque according to the donors' wishes. Feeling encouraged by the early response to their appeal, the Selectboard suggested that the Library Board consider the idea also.

And so now the Wendell Library Trustees have joined with the Selectboard to put the idea out to you. Sponsor a window at either the Town Hall or Library in memory of a loved one or in recognition of your family's commitment to our fine town.

Final prices are not in. The four large windows at the Town Hall will be about $1,000-$1,200 each. The biggest windows at the Library (of which there are six) will each cost about $300. The smaller Library windows (also six) will each cost about $260. Each window donated to the Library will reduce by an equal amount what is drawn from the town account. Please contact a member of the Selectboard or the Library Board of Trustees if you are interested. Thank you.

Rosie Heidkamp

P.S. Individuals and families may want to consider joining together on the Town Hall windows.

Postage Stamp Highlights Breast Cancer + Health

On June 15, Wendell resident and health advocate Anne Perkins led an Informational Meeting at the Wendell Post Office drawing attention to Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which begins its second decade in October 1996.

The focus was to raise public awareness of the disease and the importance of early detection through self-examinations, physical exams and mammograms.

Statistics suggest that breast cancer will strike one of eight women. There is no known way to prevent the disease; if it is detected and treated early, a woman's chance of survival is very high.

Wendell Selectboard Chair Ann Zak lent her support and received a commemorative 32-cent Breast Cancer Awareness stamp postmarked at the Wendell Breast Cancer Awareness Station.

Wendell Postmaster Charles O'Dowd described the new stamp as depicting the silhouetted profile of a woman and a pink ribbon (which indicates support for the Breast Cancer Awareness Movement).

Wrats Flora and Fauna

A cooperative effort at WRATS this spring reclaimed the green area by the opentop. While pickaxing out the grass that had taken over the bed several women stopped to tell me of their past efforts when the station was first established. A few plants, notably daylilies, echinacea and beebalm, remain from that planting. Lacking maintenance, in five years the grass and bedstraw had taken over.

Hope Riley helped root out that grass and map a strategy. While she put annuals in the flowerbox, we decided to put perennials in the big bed that are tough, proven survivors. Most of these divisions from our own gardens or abandoned sites compete on poor soil so well they're almost weeds and will give Nature some variety to work with.

Rosie Heidkamp finished the planting with a line of her rugged Cape Cod rugosa roses. The Highway Dept. helped top things off with a providential load of chipped brush, and Mark Ceria added two of his concrete creations. Parker Cleveland and Linda Slakey lent us tools; Charles Smith lent a hand forking mulch. Thanks to all these fine people.

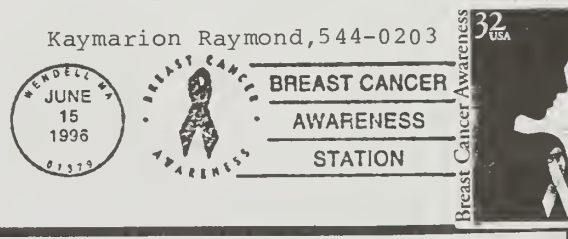
Working at WRATS in the quieter off-hours allowed a closer look at the surrounding state of Nature. Hope and I barely avoided pickaxing a young garter snake. Shortly after putting a toad house (recycled flower pot) behind the lilies we spotted a fat toad under a rock observing us. While our work has disturbed them I think they'll soon return because of the large numbers of snakes I saw around the rocky perimeter of the landfill.

A walk around the dead refrigera-tors revealed an ever widening variety of wildflowers, including the discrete blue eyed grass. Back of the landfill low bush blueberries are promising a harvest that may attract the black bear sighted recently around Wendell. It's encouraging to see the green reclaiming our waste.

Even in the WRATS buildings Nature has a presence. The phoebes who nested over the opentop last year returned this spring to a corner of the recycling barn. As of Summer Solstice three fledglings left their nest. They can be seen in the edge of the woods calling and bobbing their tails. At the other end of the barn another shyer brown bird (a flycatcher?) nested. They help con-tain the wasp and hornet population our litter attracts.

When you come to WRATS, Nature has surprises for the observant. Mean-time the sumac is trying to take over another old flower bed, and the lilac by the gate would love some manure. Any more volunteers?

Kaymarion Raymond, 544-0203



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WENDELL FARMERS' AND GARDENERS' MARKET

Wendell Farmers & Gardeners Market is Growing!

The Wendell Farmers & Gardeners Market began May 4th. It is held from 10am to 1pm every Saturday through the end of October on the north end of the common. In case of rain, many of the vendors set up under the bandstand.

There are usually a variety of products for sale including fresh, organic local produce, baked goods, perennial plants, cut flowers, eggs, maple syrup, herbal products, crafts and art.

As the market is new and the spring very wet, local produce was a little scarce at first. The supply is improving.

The WFGM is not just for local shopping. It has also become a real social gathering. The market is a wonderful opportunity for people to visit with each other.

To keep the market thriving, more customers and vendors are needed. For more information, or to voice comments and concerns, please contact Linda Hickman, 544-8604, or Rosie Heidkamp, 544-8457.

Linda Hickman

DOG TRAINING CLASSES ON THE COMMON!!

The Wendell Dog Officer and Recreation Commission are sponsoring a series of classes on dog obedience training. The classes will be held on Wednesday evenings, beginning July 24th, on the Town Common, with a special focus on teaching children how to train their dogs (although all adults are welcome, too!) There will be a small fee for materials. Those intersted should contact Maggie Houghton at 544-7773 or Linda Hickman at 544-8604.

Visiting Mrs. Lewis

Lucille Lewis lives now at the Franklin Nursing Home on Conway St. in Greenfield. She's 83, and, until being placed into the hospital-like home, she'd had quite a few years to tend her flower garden across from the Wendell Common. She stayed involved with the Golden Agers, visited shut-ins herself, and was her own boss in her own home in her own golden years.

Parker Cleveland says she used to give him old clothes of her son Brad's that she'd carefully sewn and patched. Once she had a telephone number for him, Parker remembers, and couldn't find a small piece of paper to write it down on. So she took a full-sized new sheet and wrote the number in her schoolteacher's hand in the corner of the page, then carefully cut off the "three-quarter-inch by three-inch piece" with the number on it, and handed it to him. "She's old school," says the recycling center superintendent. "She's not into waste."

She could walk across the street to attend Town meeting, and she faithfully did for many years, even as participation by her fellow old timers grew small and she herself frail and less able to participate in the rough and tumble of debate. You only had to know her to know her vote, while quiet, was well considered.

My guess is she didn't let on about not seeing too well, or she might not have been allowed to drive her Chevy between Wendell and Orange. The car was a mid-size 70's Nova, and she made it seem like an ocean liner the way she looked out under the top of the steering wheel. There were those who marvelled at this, wondering if she could only see the telephone poles and trees and other tall roadside objects that indicated she was on the road. Her last few years at home she consolidated into the kitchen in front of the wood cookstove where she was glad to talk to a visitor, as long as he cleared up his perhaps fuzzy identity by announcing his full name.

I spent several hours with her there in the early 1980's, interviewing her about Wendell history for the Wendell Post. Each succeeding year that I stopped in for keys to the Senior Center, she walked more stooped over, but she maintained her spirits as well as she had the flowers and the blue Nova.

Lucille was one to pass along the smoothworn gifts of community ever since she came to Wendell from Leverett to teach at the Mormon Hollow School, a one-room elementary school that served the northwestern part of Town. She taught there until it closed in the 1950's, then went to teach in Millers Falls--a total of 37 years of teaching before her retirement.

A fall in which she broke a shoulder, along with increasing frailty from thinning bonemass, cut short her independent home-based life two or three years ago. Early last March, from her chair at a north window of the nursing home, she remarked that people don't seem to look after each other as much any more. The simple words rang true, and in gratitude for the reminder, as well as the pleasure of her company, I started visiting her each week.

Though she speaks with a tiny voice, making it hard to hear if the other residents are restless or nurses are talking right outside her door, she's easy to be with on account of her lively interest in things. Still, we tend to fear age and illness, and institutional settings aren't comfortable for many of us, so it is natural to first maintain a kind of distance from Lucille and her tiny, osteoporosis-wracked body.

Recently, Susan and I were taking her in her wheelchair out into the sun and she rapped on the arm of the chair. I stopped, came around in front and bent close to hear her.

"Where are we going?" she asked, almost inaudibly. We'd already told her, of course. She worries about being taken away, we were told. She also asks departing visitors to remind the nurses not to forget her at suppertime.

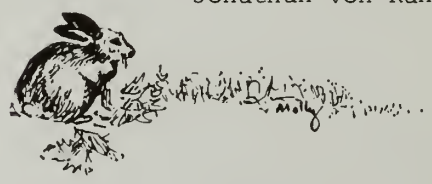
If you think about it, these questions are appropriate--people today don't always take the time to bend down and listen to the quiet words of an elder. I can understand why she might worry about being forgotten or moved. (Following her fall, she was moved from her home to a hospital, then back home to Wendell, then back to the nursing home.) A spunky spirit, in however weak and failing a body, has trouble losing power as well as familiar places and faces, and understandably wonders, "Am I going to be subjected to something?"

Lucille Lewis has plenty on the ball. She loves to josh herself, or the rest of us. Her mouth moves down to get a grip on itself against any possible laughing at her own joke, and her eyelids lower... to avoid catching one's eye? To savor the witticism?

She still enjoys hearing the news of Wendell, and keeps track of the ongoing public issues and personal stories. She loves to have poetry recited or read, and recites it alongwith. Any word in the conversation that isn't understood by either party, she spells or wants spelled. Just like a schoolteacher. Once you're in good contact with her, you get the impression of a remarkably subtle and often alert old lady. Of a human being with the characteristic thirst for, and recognition of, love.

So Lucille Lewis, former schoolteacher, civic activist, widow of Donald and mother of Brad who lives in Leverett, gets a few visitors, and keeps a close watch that she doesn't get forgotten or whisked away somewhere. If you go see her, be sure to tell her your full name, even be ready to spell it, and consider bringing some news or poetry.

Jonathan von Ranson



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